

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EYES ONLY
DO NOT COPY

LIMITED ACCESS

Declassified Case: NW# 78134 Date:
08-25-2025

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3486

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with the
Prime Minister of Russia

PARTICIPANTS: Prime Minister Vladimir Putin

Interpreter: Nikolai Sorokin
Notetaker(s): Randal LaBine, Alison Clyde,
John Horton

DATE, TIME May 12, 2008, 10:24 a.m. - 10:27 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hey, Vladimir. (U)

Prime Minister Putin: Hi, George. It's very nice to hear you.
(U)

The President: I'm just calling to congratulate you on your new
position. It's a little awkward not to call you President, but
I'm happy to call you Prime Minister. (S)

Prime Minister Putin: Thank you very much, George. Thank you
for not forgetting your old friend. I hold that in very high
regard. [REDACTED] b(6)

[REDACTED] b(6)
[REDACTED] b(6) (S)

The President: [REDACTED] b(6)
[REDACTED] b(6)
(S)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LIMITED ACCESS

Classified by: John I. Pray, Jr.
Reason: 1.4(d)
Declassify on: 5/19/18

CAUTION: A Memorandum of a Telephone Conversation (TELCON) is not a verbatim transcript of a
discussion. The text in this document records the notes and recollections of Situation Room Duty
Officers and NSC policy staff assigned to listen and memorialize the conversation in written form
as the conversation takes place. A number of factors can affect the accuracy of the record,
including poor telecommunications connections and variations in accent and/or interpretation.
The word "inaudible" is used to indicate portions of a conversation that the note taker was
unable to hear.

An interpreter facilitated this conversation. Differences in interpretation may result in subtle
differences in the exact meaning of phrases.

NW#: 78134

DocId: 34685381

(Prime Minister Putin: [REDACTED] b(6)

[REDACTED] b(6)

(U)

The President: [REDACTED] b(6) (U)

Prime Minister Putin: You know, we have established a very good relationship between you and me. I'm sure my successor Medvedev will also have good relations with the new administration, and with you. This is very important for our countries. So you will meet with my successor, President Medvedev, at the island of Hokkaido for the G-8 meetings. And you and I will meet at the opening ceremonies of the Olympic games in Beijing? (S)

The President: Yes, absolutely. We'll go to the old people's events and compete in the over-55 category. (S)

Prime Minister Putin: Yes, but we'll beat them all. We'll by all means be the winners, you'll win the bicycle race and I will win judo. (S)

(The President: Glad to hear your voice, we'll stay in touch and I wish you all the best. (U)

Prime Minister Putin: Yes. Thank you very much, all the best to you. I embrace you and we'll be in touch. Until we meet again. (U)

The President: Yes, until then. Thanks, Vladimir. Goodbye. (U)

Prime Minister Putin: Thanks, goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --